

Quick Strokes

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Whole Number 19

A resourceful teacher - A. C. Kolb, of the Carmel Middle School

A visit to the typing room at Carmel Middle School, Carmel, California, provides more than a lesson, a model, or a mark to shoot at. It is a revelation and an inspiration.

Here in a classroom are Dvorak-arranged typewriters (along with old-arrangement machines) in practical daily use, on students' assignments from other courses, on ditto masters and stencils for the school, and on some manuscripts from outside sources.

The teacher is A. C. Kolb - see California Science Teachers' Journal, October, 1978, front cover and pages 18 and 19.

His typing course is limited to one semester and is designated as "personal typing." Already, however, Mr. Kolb has brought one student to 70-word a minute scores.

This student is Patty Maxwell, who is now in Carmel High School. The score is a net one, arrived at by leaving misspelled words out of the count.

She still has access to the Carmel Middle School Store, P. O. Box 500, Carmel, CA 93921, which maintains a stock of Dvorak-arranged typewriters of the SCM Electra Automatic model and can supply others.

Reports by Mr. Kolb on his Dvorak typing teaching are scheduled for The November-December, 1978, issue of Office Education Journal and for an early issue of California Science Teachers' Journal.

Correction

Right phone number for Gerald Baker, Speedy Keyboard application specialist for Iowa and the area: 319-266-3718.

ASK portables for immediate shipment
B. W. Adams, 4 Park Ave., RD 1,
Scarborough, ME 04074

The straight of the matter -
B. J. Lessley on retraining

The source for Lessley, Bradley John, Keyboard Retraining - Qwerty to Dvorak, is Dvorak International Federation, P. O. Box 13113, Salem, Oregon 97309. We are assured that the DIF is answering its mail.

Lessley's preliminary studies revealed that the retrainees who make the best progress in learning Dvorak are those that continue with qwerty input while they train to the point of readiness for the switch.

The explanation for this phenomenon is beyond the scope of KRQD. Quick Strokes offers its own, as follows:

What is wanted is the quick, "cat-like" strokes which are characteristic of skilled operators on any arrangement. As August Dvorak and his collaborators on Typewriting Behavior pointed out, the slow strokes that are dealt by beginners or by any operator at a slow pace are of a different pattern and are not at all feline.

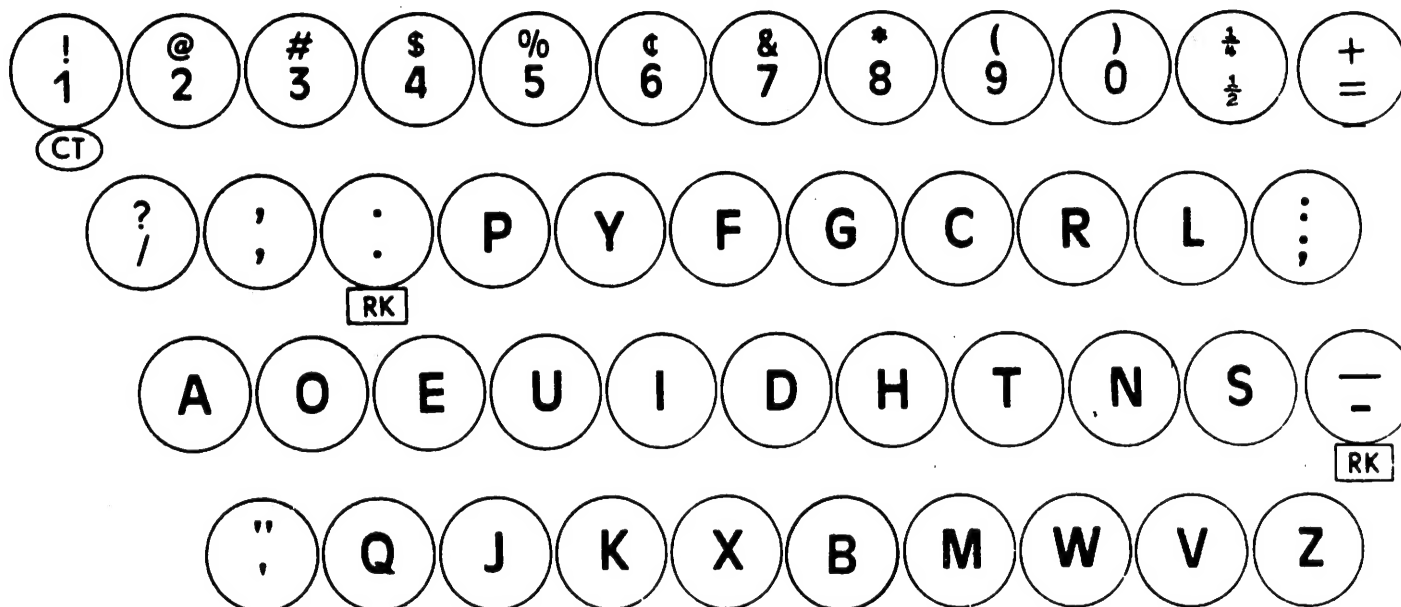
The cat's stroke to the aimed-at key is the aim of all keyboard learning, including Qwerty-to-Dvorak retraining. It is a skill which competent operators already possess. It makes sense to guard and preserve it by keeping the retrainees' hands in.

With this insight, Lessley worked out retraining programs for two groups of employed operators. Reports from Oregon, where the work was conducted, are that the transition to the more efficient Dvorak style of keying was smooth and that the loss of time was quite acceptable.

In KRQD, Lessley has broken the sod in a broad and fertile field. He invites other plowmen to hitch up their teams.

Oregon state-sponsored retraining continues - Below is the arrangement that the Oregon state government specifies in ordering new equipment for the use of its Dvorak-skilled keyboard operators. There will be about a hundred of these when the current series of retraining sessions at Chemeketa Community College (stress the mek) have been completed, late in January, 1979, and the retrainees have completed the series of skill development sessions which follow. A small stream of high-scoring, pretrained, Dvorak-skilled operators, originating from Sprague High School - both schools are in Salem - will be competing in state civil service examinations as time goes on.

Because some of the present equipment has been converted by means of a ready-made ball element, certain other variants of the Dvorak arrangement have been in use in some Oregon state agencies.



Opposite numbers, in New South Wales and in New Jersey

For a story on Betty Levine, of Irvington, New Jersey, see Quick Strokes, Fall-Winter, 1974-75, issue. For one on Bruce Maguire, see Canberra Times for June 19, 1978, page 18.

For those with the eyesight to read this, the photos with the two stories will be instructive. Levine looks young to be, as she is, the mother of four. Maguire looks young because he is young, at age twenty. Both are blind.

Both are perceptive; both know a good thing when they hear of it - and in both cases the Dvorak arrangement for typewriter keyboards is rated as one of the best things that have come their way.

Betty heard of it from Harriet Davis and Bruce from Ronald Watson. Both made their own diagrams in braille.

In a few weeks, Betty was writing mailable business letters. In one day, Bruce was able to write a whole-alphabet sentence without consulting his chart. The score on Dvorak retraining for blind operators is 100 per cent quick success. The quality of the instruction has nothing to do with it. Neither Betty nor Bruce could be bothered with an instructor.

So far, Quick Strokes has avoided any stress on the Dvorak arrangement as an aid to handicapped people. Segregation into special schools would be as bad for the new keyboard as it is for the students.

Now that Dvorak keying has a solid toehold in civil service and private industry, the wraps are off. A blind person with good insight can, indeed, lead both the blind and the sighted. Please give us your input.

Two new reports from the Faculty of Science, University of Tokyo

"... using ... Dvorak's keyboard optimization principles and statistical characteristics of Japanese text," says the abstract of Technical Report 78-01 of the Department of Information Science of the University of Tokyo, a study was made to determine the optimal Kanji code and keyboard arrangement.

TR 78-01, in Japanese, by Jiro Tanaka and Hisao M. Yamada, reports the study. The title, translated on the inside back cover, reads "A Study of Touch Typing Input Method for Japanese Text." The source is 7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku Tokyo, 113 Japan.

Dvorak, Merrick, Dealey, and Ford, Typewriting Behavior, the Guinness Book of World Records, R. S. Parkinson's November, 1972, article in Computers and Automation are among the 63 references in TR 78-01.

Another report by one of the same authors, this time giving his name as Yamada-Hisao, is Technical Report 78-06. It also is in Japanese, but the translated title is "An Ergonomic Comparison of Input Methods for Japanese Text." Many of the 146 references are also in English.

From the abstract: "It is also maintained that the easiest keying for fingers be made the primary criterion for the best Kanji coding and keyboard combination.

The source is the same university, faculty, department, and mail address.

Quick Strokes thanks Professor Yamada for these valuable reports.

Opposite numbers, in Seoul and in Madison, Wisconsin

Thanks to the alertness and thoughtfulness of Hermione D. Dvorak, of Seattle, and thanks to the generosity of the author and the translator, Quick Strokes has two copies of one more item for your Dvorak bibliography, one in the original English and one in Korean.

See Mutual Matters, Vol. 6, No. 11,

November, 1973, page 4, under "by" line of Don Moore and title "Blame It On QWERT." Moore is manager of the publications department of the CUNA Mutual Insurance Group. Mutual Matters is published at Madison, Wisconsin.

In reality, Moore places the blame for the prevalence of the absurd QWERT arrangement on the traditional villain, "the schools." No doubt the schools do want an inducement - who does not? But as the field mice of the economy, they will settle for a daimen icker in a thrave.

The translation is by Mr. Su-Don, Pak, chief clerk of the Hangul Mechanization Promotional Society, of Seoul, Korea, and is circulated by the society. The comma before the clan name is correct.

Memos and clips from where rolls the Willamette

The (Salem) Oregon Statesman of November 24, 1978, devotes 30 column inches to the Dvorak keyboard application in state government, in a story by Steve McConnell which starts with a banner and a diagram above the nameplate.

The banner reads "State typists testing minds, fingers with a new keyboard", and the continuation head reads "So far no one wants to change back to the old system".

The gist of this low-keyed story is that the rearranged keyboard is living up to its billing.

Chris Christensen, of the state Executive Department, Bradley Lessley, Ph. D., Margaret Russell, instructor at Chemeketa Community College, Lou Ellen Weld, supervisor of office services with the state Department of Revenue, and Joe Taylor, business education chairman at Sprague High School, are quoted.

A September 27, 1978, memo from Christensen's office reports that within three weeks of start of training for the first two operators from the Building Codes Division, that division had asked for places for eight more retrainees. Sherm Washburn, of the Health Division, is a longtime operator on Dvorak.

Essentially preequipped for Dvorak input - all offices with nonExecutive IBM Selectrics

New nonExecutive Selectric Typewriters can be ordered with an arrangement of characters corresponding to Oregon Dvorak within the set of characters on the IBM element that is mounted.

A diagram should be attached to the order. The time lapse before delivery is the same as for a traditional arrangement. Keytop legends will match the Dvorak arrangement. The price will be a little higher.

Quick Strokes offers a conversion chart to show your service worker the new locations for the interposers when you ask for conversion of an on-hand nonExecutive Selectric. Send \$4 (in California, \$4.24) to Quick Strokes, Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

Speedy Keyboard Ent. Inc., same address, offers a special element - two type sizes, pica and elite - which permits quick conversion to one variant

of the Dvorak arrangement (called the Camwil variant) and quick reconversion. Price, \$85. In California, \$90.10. The elite Camwil element is equivalent to IBM Artisan, the pica to Courier.

For either method, release the vane link for uniformity of impression.

Bibliographic note

Modern Office & Data Management, May, 1978, pages 9 and 10, Linton, J. Eddis, "Letter frequencies key to filing and forms layout", cites certain deficiencies of the traditional typewriter keyboard layout and notes, with diagrams, the superiority of the Dvorak arrangement. He deplores the "inertia" which he thinks might inhibit acceptance in Australia. Reference is made to another article in the February, 1978, issue of the same magazine.

Linton is a member of the Records Management Association of Australia.

Season's greetings!
from the staff of

Quick Strokes

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